

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1914 without my signature.

I appreciate and share the author's interest in improving correctional education programs. That is one reason why I appointed Jeanne Woodford as the current California Department of Corrections (CDC) Director, based on her proven support for correctional education programs while Warden at San Quentin State Prison. Signing this bill would only hamper the improvements being planned and implemented by the Director.

This bill eliminates accountability for the education programs by creating another layer of bureaucracy that is not directly answerable to the Director. Appointment of a Deputy Director for Correctional Education could only be made from a list of candidates provided by the Correctional Education Committee. This clearly usurps the Director's authority at a time when she is tasked with evaluating the current educational, vocational and treatment programs in order to implement a comprehensive plan to provide more rehabilitation opportunities to end the cycle of violence

CDC's Director has an existing Advisory Committee on Correctional Education, which includes representatives of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Chancellors of both the California State University system and the California Community Colleges system. This bill would replace the existing committee with the 15-member Correctional Education Committee appointed by 12 different appointing authorities, hampering the Director's ability to improve and expand education programs.

For these reasons I am unable to support this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger